Military Awards Branch
Command Brief

1stSgt Course

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HQMC Military Awards Branch Mission Statement

The Mission of the HQMC Military Awards Branch is to receive, board, prepare, and transmit to the field, all awards submitted for approval by the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

MMMA is also responsible for developing and disseminating awards policy to the field.

Additionally, MMMA is responsible for ensuring that field approved awards are submitted to MMSB for inclusion into the Marine's OMPF and input into MCTFS.

Finally, MMMA maintains the electronic awards submission backbone for Marine Corps units world wide.

- **"The Personal Awards Program is a tool for Commanders to recognize the contributions of the Marines and Sailors entrusted to them. As commanders, we must place the appropriate emphasis on the Awards Program at all levels. This action serves two purposes: First, it allows tangible recognition to those Marines and Sailors whose actions are clearly deserving of recognition. Second, we send a message to his or her peers that we will reward superior performance."**

- **General J.L. Jones, CMC, ALMAR 019/00**

SecNav Delegated Approval Authority

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- **CMC**
- **ComMarForLant, ComMarForPac, ComMarForRes, CG, MCCDC**
- **MEF Cmdrs**
- **Flag-level Cmdrs**
- **Bn/Sqdn Cmdrs**

- **LM and below, MUC**
- **LM(Ret) and below**

- **MM and below**
- **NC and below**
- **NA and MOVSM**

SecNav Delegated Combat Approval Authority for OEF and OIF

- **CMC**
- **COMMARCENT**
- **I MEF**
- **3d MAW**
- **Flag-level Cmdrs**
  - **- 1st MARDIV**
  - **- 1st FSSG**

- **BV and below**
- **BV and below**
- **BV and below along with PH**
- **AS and CV and below**
- **CV and below**
- **All Commanders above have authority to approve CR for OIF and OEF for those Marines/Sailors under their command**

SecNav retains awarding authority

- **Silver Stars and above**
- **Awards for general officers**
- **Awards for foreign service members**
- **Designation of new operations for which the Combat Action Ribbon will be authorized**
- **Unit Awards of Navy Unit Commendation and above**
- **All terrorist-related incidents**
- **Extraordinary heroism determination**
  - **Enlisted Marines only**

Electronic Awards Processing System

Endstate

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Afford the *entire* Marine Corps access to an awards processing system that can be utilized by all levels (originator-company-battalion-regiment-division-MEF-MarFor-HQMC) for the processing, submission and storage of all personal and unit award recommendations.

What was developed

- **An Internet-based application (can be accessed by anyone in the Marine Corps with Internet access) for originating, forwarding, processing and storing all personal and unit awards.**
- **System that allows sub delegated awarding authorities to approve, print, and award decorations.**
- **Secure System (Privacy Act info such as SSN) with this Headquarters providing access to those members that require special access.**

The Website

- **In order to make the Awards Processing System available to the entire Marine Corps, an internet site was developed**
- **The Website can be accessed from the MarineLink website (WWW.USMC.MIL)**
- **Other Links Include**
  - **HEADQUARTERS, MARINE CORPS (www.hqmc.usmc.mil)**
  - **MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS (www.manpower.usmc.mil)**
    - **MM**
    - **MMMA**

Other web site functions

- **References**
- **Real time awards tracking (Awards Status link)**
- **Link to Military Awards Branch MARADMINs**
- **Sample citations**
- **Medal, Ribbon chart**
- **CAR/HSM database – database that list all approved CAR/HSM**

Command Level Personal and Unit Award Issues

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals

- **Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medals**
  - **Awarding authority is Battalion/Squadron level Commanders and above.**
  - **ALMAR 472/00: Eliminated a quota system.**
  - **Awarded for Specific Achievement (IMPACT) and End of Tour.**
  - **Specific Achievement is defined as “a single act or action that warrants recognition” or “superior performance on a specific task generally not to exceed 6 months.”**

Certificates

- **MARADMIN 16/00**
- **Web site to order certificates from Http://FORMS.DAPS.MIL./**
- **Stock numbers for Medals in MCO 1650.19J**

Time lines for submission of CMC approved awards

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- **MCO 1650.19J**
- **“If CMC action is required, the recommendation should reach CMC (MMMA) 60 days prior to desired presentation date. Allow 90 days if the recommendation is submitted through a lengthy chain of command or during the summer months (late May through August).**
- **Build processing time in your awards submissions**

Sea Service Deployment - Overseas Ribbons

- **MARADMIN 574/99 outlined Marine Corps policy on the SSDR and the OSR**
- **SSDR**
  - **Operating Forces**
  - **90 days or more away from their PDS**
  - **12 months FMF duty**
  - **12 month tour over seas with an FMF unit**
  - **One award per 12 month period**
  - **Waivers for Operation "Iraqi Freedom" MarAdmin 582/03**

    - Squadron/Battalion Commanding Officers have the authority to waive the 90 days deployment criteria for members of FMF commands in CONUS, and the 12 months criteria for members of FMF commands outside CONUS on a case-by-case basis.

Sea Service Deployment - Overseas Ribbons

*** All approved waivers must be processed via the Award Processing System (APS).**

- **OSR**
  - **Supporting Establishment**
  - **12 months overseas in a non FMF command**
  - **WAIVER AUTHORITY - COMMANDING OFFICERS HAVING SPECIAL COURTS MARTIAL CONVENING AUTHORITY.**

Combat Action Ribbon

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- **Combat Action Ribbon is a PERSONAL AWARD**
  - **"The principal eligibility criterion that the individual must have participated in a bona fide ground or surface fire fight or action in which he was under fire and his performance was satisfactory"**
  - **MARADMIN 463/00 expanded the criteria to include Peace Keeping Operations for the CAR. Retroactive to 25 August 1982.**
  - **In combat environment, look for MARADMIN to open CAR window**
  - **DON'T HESITIATE TO NOMINATE MARINES FOR CARS - MAKE THE SECNAV SAY NO.**
    - **1650/3 Personal Award nomination(use most senior Marine) - summary of the action(follow the example provided on the web page)**
    - **Attach the roster of participants (all is electronic)**
  - **Military Awards will review and send to SecNav for decision**
    - **After SecNav opens window Marine Corps decisions**
    - **Delegation**
    - **Not for aviation combat**

GWOT Expeditionary Medal

- **Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) Expeditionary Medal**
  - **MARADMIN 129/04 Authorized the award for Marines and guidance for submission of the GWOTEM**
  - **The Combatant Commander has passed delegation to the COMMARCENT for determination of units approved for the GWOTEM**
  - **Once a unit is authorized for GWOTEM, local Commanders will review the Marine's record to determine eligibility for the GWOTEM**

- **THE GWOT SERVICE MEDAL IS STILL PENDING FURTHER REVIEW FOR CRITERIA AT DOD**

Korean Defense Service Medal

- **Korean Defense Service Medal (KDSM)**
  - **MARADMIN 120/04 Authorized for Marines to be awarded and wear the KDSM**
  - **The BN/Sqdn Cmdr will determine eligibility for the KDSM**
  - **Award retroactive back to 28 July 1954**
  - **In the absence of evidence within the Marine's service record or lack of supporting documentation to establish eligibility for the KDSM, the Marine may complete the self certification document available online at the Military Awards Branch website.**

Unit Award Issues

- **Per the Marine Corps Order, the following guidance is provided**
  - **Awards must be submitted by the next higher Commander (the unit that is being recognized cannot submit itself for an award)**
  - **Command endorsements NEED to say more than just "Forwarding recommending approval." MARADMIN 245/99**
  - **The order states that the performance expected of Marine Units is excellence, just doing good does not guarantee an award**

Congressional action

- **Subsection C, Section 526, NDAA of 1996**
  - **Removed time constraints on the awards process**
- **Subsection G, Section 564, NDAA of 2000**
  - **Changed the retroactive date for the CAR to include WW II and Korea**

Congressional action cont.

- **I&Is are asked from HQMC, MMMA to make awards presentation for awards not tendered in service to former or retired Marines**
  - **Combat Awards**
  - **Purple Hearts**
- **MMMA sends package to include medal and point of contact number for Marine or next of kin.**

Replacement of Awards

- **Title 10, US Code affords service members the entitlement to be issues a one time replacement set of medals earned in service.**
- **National Personnel Records Center**
  - **MCO 1650.19J has the mailing address for replacement awards.**
  - **DD-214 and SF 180 or letter requesting replacement awards**

References

- **Navy and Marine Corps Awards Manual**
  - **Sec Nav Inst 1650.1G**
- **Administrative and Issue Procedures for Decorations, Medals and Awards**
  - **MCO 1650.19J (Published by the Military Awards Branch)**
- **Marine Corps Unit Awards Manual**
  - **NAVMC 2922 (Published by the Military Awarded Branch)**
- **Department of Defense Awards Manual**
  - **DoD Isnt 1348.33M**
- **US Code, titles 10 and 18**

Questions?

- **Don’t hesitate to call your Headquarters!**

- **A copy of this presentation can be found on the MMMA Awards website under the references section**
- **A useful guide on how to use the system can be found on the MMMA Awards website**